



USDA-NRCS—Salt Lake City, Utah

References:

- ◆ <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/>
- ◆ EFOTG
- ◆ CPM 440—Part 512 CPC
- ◆ CPM 440-Part 515 EQIP
- ◆ TMDL or Listed Watersheds:
- ◆ National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH)
- ◆ UT Bulletins
- ◆ Area Agronomist
- ◆ Technical questions on this ranking tool should be directed to Area Technical and Program Specialists.

National At-Risk species Resource Concerns

- Plant Condition; Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
- Plant Condition; T&E Plant Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern
- Fish and Wildlife; Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species
- Fish and Wildlife; T&E Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern

Orchards/Vineyards

Ranking Tool Questions and Instructions



2008-Environmental Quality
Incentives Program

Note to all users: The **official** Application and Evaluation Ranking Tools are located in Protracts.

NATIONAL Priority Issues

Question 1: Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in considerable reductions of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with TMDL's where available as well as the reduction of groundwater contamination or point source such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations?

- To claim these points, the proposed project must be expected to meet Quality Criteria for all applicable NRCS Water Quality criteria.

Question 2: Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conservation of a considerable amount of ground or surface water resources?

- To claim these points, the proposed project must be expected to meet Quality Criteria for all applicable NRCS Water Quantity criteria.

Question 3: Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards?

- To claim these points, the proposed project must include one or more of the conservation practices on page 4. (This is NOT the list of eligible practices.)

Question 4: Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land?

- To claim these points, soil erosion must go from above T to T or below T as a result of the proposed project OR Quality criteria for Soil Condition must be met as a result of implementing the proposed project.

Question 5: Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable increase in the promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation?

- To claim these points, the project must be expected to meet Quality Criteria for one or more of the four national at-risk species resource concerns (see list, left sidebar).

At-risk **plant** species are in Appendix C. - Rare Plant Species by Habitat Type

At-risk **animal** species are in Appendix A. - Utah CWCS Tier I, II, and III Species List.

See Utah-NRCS Website—Programs-EQIP tab.

STATE Priority Issues Questions and Rules

Question 1: Does the cooperator have a current RMS plan on the CTU for the EQIP project ?

- To claim these points, the applicant must have an RMS plan which addresses all resource concerns on the Conservation Treatment Unit (CTU) being offered for EQIP funding. (NPPH Amendment 3, 600.6-4)

STATE Priority Issues, continued

Question 2: Does the cooperator have one or more active contracts that are behind schedule?

- Review 440-CPM, 512 and CCC-1200 Appendix signed by participant. Behind schedule is defined as an unapplied practice scheduled to have been installed prior to date of ranking.

Question 3: Does the applicant have one or more contracts that have been cancelled, or terminated (or are currently in the process of being cancelled/terminated)?

- Answer as appropriate.

Question 4: Does the plan address control of an invasive species identified by a state, county, or local government or by a local Cooperative Weed Management Area as being a noxious species?

- Identify if the target species identified by the applicant is listed as noxious and/or invasive. Control of these species must be addressed THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE PRACTICES in the contract if answered yes.

Question 5: Is this project in an area that is covered by an approved areawide plan as defined by the National Planning Procedures Handbook?

- Is the planned project in an approved area wide plan as defined by the National Planning Procedures Handbook, and been designated as such by the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations? In order to answer yes to this question all of these REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET.

Question 6: Will a management incentive practice be applied to 100% of the contracted acres and will the management practice be applied for 3 years?

- Answer as appropriate.

Questions 7: Will utilize USU Extension website for establishing the appropriate timing for pesticide application.

- Are you timing your pesticide applications based on the USU Extension web site?
<http://utahpests.usu.edu/ipm/htm/advisories/treefruit>

Question 8: Will use IPM techniques to reduce conventional pesticide use, such as mating disrupters, attractants, insect growth regulators, mineral oil, or combinations of soft pesticides.

- Will new IPM techniques be used such as mating disrupters, attractants, insect growth regulators, mineral oil or using "soft pesticides?" IPM techniques can be seen on individual USU fact sheets at the above web site.

EQIP National Priorities

1. Reductions of **nonpoint source** pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with TMDLs where available as well as the reduction of ground-water contamination and reduction of point sources such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations;
2. Conservation of **ground and surface water** resources;
3. Reduction of **emissions**, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NO_x), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards;
4. Reduction in **soil erosion and sedimentation** from unacceptable levels on agricultural land; and
5. Promotion of **at-risk species** habitat conservation.

Uncontrolled Flood	35%
Controlled Flood	50%
Furrow Graded	60%
Surge System	65%
Borders Graded	80%
Big Gun	65%
Hand or Wheel Line	65%
Pivot or Linear	80%
Level Basin	90%
Surface Drip	90%
Subsurface Drip	95%

Ref. UT652.0605 State Supplement
And Brent Draper, UT NRCS State
Irrigation Engineer

Irrigation Efficiencies Table 2

Use this table to determine efficiencies when "replacing" systems that have exceeded their useful life spans.

When going from....to.....

Old Wheel Line to Wheel Line
55% to 65 %

Old Wheel Line to Pivot
55% to 80%

Old Pivot to Pivot
65% to 80%

per discussions with Clare Prestwich,
NRCS National Irrigation Specialist

STATE Priority Issues, continued

Question 9: Will provide a record of monitoring insect populations season long.

- Will the client monitor insect populations' season long? If the client just monitors until Biofix no points should be awarded.

Question 10: Will you plant perennial cover crop between rows?

- If you already have an established cover crop in the orchard no points awarded. If the client will plant a cover crop in the orchard then points are given.

Question 11: Will establish a pest-specific biofix within your own orchard for each year.

- Biofix is when two or more moths are caught on consecutive nights.

Question 12: Will send pest-specific biofix date to local county agent or USU.

- USU Extension needs more Biofix information to help establish appropriate spray dates.

Questions 13-24: Irrigation Efficiency

- Change in irrigation efficiency. i.e. from controlled flood to hand line = 15% change.

Question 25: Will keep records of irrigation amount and timing for irrigation water management plan.

- Applicant agrees to develop and implement an IWM (449) plan.

Conservation Practices—to claim points for National Priority Question #3, the proposed project must include one or more of the following practices:

<p>Access Road (560)</p> <p>Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (443)</p> <p>Alley Cropping (311)</p> <p>Irrigation Water Management (449)</p> <p>Amendments for the Treatment of Agricultural Waste (591)</p> <p>Mulching (484)</p> <p>Anaerobic Digester, Controlled Temperature (366)</p> <p>Nutrient Management (590)</p> <p>Animal Mortality Facility (316)</p> <p>Pasture and Hay Planting (512)</p> <p>Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Erosion Control (450)</p> <p>Pest Management (595)</p> <p>Atmospheric Resource Quality Management (370)</p> <p>Prescribed Burning (338)</p> <p>Closure of Waste Impoundment (360)</p> <p>Prescribed Grazing (528)</p> <p>Composting Facility (317)</p> <p>Pumping Plant (533)</p> <p>Conservation Cover (327)</p> <p>Range Planting (550)</p> <p>Conservation Crop Rotation (328)</p> <p>Recreation Area Improvement (562)</p> <p>Constructed Wetland (656)</p> <p>Recreation Land Grading and Shaping (566)</p> <p>Contour Buffer Strips (332)</p> <p>Recreation Trail and Walkway (568)</p> <p>Contour Farming (330)</p> <p>Residue Management, Seasonal (344)</p> <p>Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Area (331)</p> <p>Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643)</p> <p>Cover Crop (340)</p> <p>Riparian Forest Buffer (391)</p> <p>Critical Area Planting (342)</p> <p>Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)</p> <p>Cross Wind Ridges (589A)</p> <p>Rock Barrier (555)</p> <p>Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C)</p>	<p>Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395)</p> <p>Deep Tillage (324)</p> <p>Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)</p> <p>Drainage Water Management (554)</p> <p>Stripcropping (585)</p> <p>Feed Management (592)</p> <p>Surface Roughening (609)</p> <p>Field Border (386)</p> <p>Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)</p> <p>Filter Strip (393)</p> <p>Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)</p> <p>Firebreak (394)</p> <p>Use Exclusion (472)</p> <p>Forest Site Preparation (490)</p> <p>Vegetative Barrier (601)</p> <p>Forest Stand Improvement (666)</p> <p>Waste Facility Cover (367)</p> <p>Fuel Break (383)</p> <p>Waste Storage Facility (313)</p> <p>Grassed Waterway (412)</p> <p>Waste Treatment Lagoon (359)</p> <p>Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548)</p> <p>Waste Utilization (633)</p> <p>Heavy Use Area Protection (561)</p> <p>Wastewater Treatment Strip (635)</p> <p>Hedgerow Planting (422)</p> <p>Wetland Creation (658)</p> <p>Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)</p> <p>Wetland Enhancement (659)</p> <p>Irrigation Canal or Lateral (320)</p> <p>Wetland Restoration (657)</p> <p>Irrigation Field Ditch (388)</p> <p>Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)</p> <p>Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)</p> <p>Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)</p> <p>Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442)</p> <p>Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650)</p>
---	--